

THE LEDGER.

Thurlow S. Carter,

EDITOR AND MANAGER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER, 21, 1900.

For The Ledger.

VAN WYCK ITEMS.

Farmers are about through with this year's crops in, both gathering and selling. However, there are a few who have not sold any and need not sell until it suits them. How much better it would be for all, if this was universal. Some are still sowing grain, some hauling up winter wood and others breaking up land for another year's crops.

The health of the community is good with the exception of colds. Mr. J. C. Crenshaw's baby has been quite ill but is better now. Mr. J. B. McGuire has a child quite sick.

Mr. J. R. Williamson and family have returned from a visit to relatives in Atlanta and Villa Rica, Ga.

Rev. J. I. Sprinkle will preach his last sermon for this conference year at Van Wyck church next Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. He has been a faithful pastor and is liked by his people. The stewards of the circuit will meet at Osceola next Saturday morning, Nov. 24th at 10 o'clock to wind up their work and make a final report.

Van Wyck is extending her borders. Mr. R. H. Massey is placing lumber and other material on his lot on Main Street and workmen are busy erecting his mansion. Also, the contractors and the carpenters are busy putting up Dr. W. J. White's cottage. Both of these buildings will be completed soon and occupied before the year closes.

The young people are having a good many pleasant parties or entertainments this fall. They had one, very much enjoyed by all who attended, at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Clyburn last week. At some of these parties, they have returned to customs, in which we sometimes joined and witnessed, more than a score of years ago, and tripped the light fantastic too, until the "wee small hours of morn'g."

The song of the wild geese and the noise of the guns of their would-be-slayers, are heard in the land and often makes the welkin ring. Some of our aggressive Nimrod's had the luck to bag some good game last week. Many rabbits, squirrel, and quail had to succumb to the well directed aims of the hunters. Mr. H. R. Clyburn had the good fortune to add to his collection two fine ducks at a single shot, and Clyde Yoder a fat, nine pound wild goose.

The Woodman of Cedar Camp have made out the following program for the dedication of their hall on Thanksgiving night, Nov. 29th, beginning at 7:30 o'clock:

First—Opening Ode, by Camp.

Second—Object of Woodcraft, by J. J. Perry.

Third—Brief History—Woodmen of the World, by J. W. Bates.

Fourth—Woodcraft in Life and Death, by M. B. Thompson.

Fifth—Musical Selections—organ, Mrs. R. H. Massey and quartet.

Sixth—Brief History of Jurisdiction, by J. A. Hyatt.

Seventh—Brief History of Cedar Camp, by J. M. Yoder.

Eighth—Musical selections, organ and quartet.

Ninth—Our New Forest, by G. L. Vaughn.

Tenth—Dedication of Hall, by W. S. L. Porter.

Eleventh—Closing Ode, by Camp.

After the dedication which will take place at the hall, a hot supper of choice viands including oysters, will be served at the residence of J. M. Yoder to which all are solicited to partake and proceed to be given to the Camp for furnishing the hall and other necessary demands.

OPTIMUS.

THE BRATTONS GO FREE.

In Forty-five Minutes the Jury Returned a Verdict of Not Guilty.

SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF DEFENDANTS.

The Case Was Ably Argued on Both Sides and the Verdict is Generally Approved.

Yorkville, Nov. 16.—The case of the State against Paul R. and John S. Bratton, brothers, charged with the murder of Harry A. Brown, in Rock Hill, on the 14th of September last, was commenced in the General Sessions this morning and has occupied the entire day. At the adjournment at 6 o'clock this afternoon the State had made out its case and the defence had only two more witnesses to put up in reply.

The case of the State is about as developed at the inquest on September 14 and 15th, and published in The News and Courier at the time.

Mr. P. A. Neal, the first witness put up by the State, testified that shortly after midnight on the 14th of September he was awakened by a rapping at the door. He answered the rapping and a man who appeared to be white stated that he had come to get Mr. Brown to paint a sign.

He was insistent and witness went to wake Brown up. Brown sent witness back to the door to find out what kind of sign was wanted. Witness returned to Brown's bedside and, while he was making explanation, a pistol was discharged. Brown cried out with pain. Witness saw stranger making ready to fire again and grabbed his arm. The second shot struck Brown in the arm. Witness saw the stranger's face by the flash of the pistol, but did not recognize him.

The stranger escaped from the room and outside told another man who was waiting: "Don't you tell." This was about 2 o'clock. Brown lived until 6 o'clock. The witness was unable to give full description of the stranger. Said he looked as if he had not been shaved for several days. Wore a dark coat, light pants, no vest, an oval straw hat, had no mustache.

Dr. T. A. Crawford and others testified that Brown, while fully conscious and rational, told of a difficulty that he had had with John S. Bratton in Yorkville the night before, and gave it as his opinion that the man who did the shooting was either "Amry Crockett, Gale or Bratton himself."

Amry Crockett is a brother of Mrs. Fannie Bratton, Gale is a brother-in-law, John S. Bratton is her husband.

Later Policeman Jenkins discovered that Paul R. Bratton was in Rock Hill and asked Brown if it was not he who did the shooting. Brown nodded his head in the affirmative and answered, "Uh, huh." Previous to this anodynes had been administered and it was not clear that Brown was rational. This, however, was a matter of opinion.

The defence this afternoon proved about the following: On the night of September 13 John S. Bratton found H. A. Brown in the room of his wife. Brown escaped by a window. Bratton intercepted him. A struggle ensued. Brown got Bratton, who was the weaker man, tangled in a swing and tried to choke him to death. Bratton alarmed the neighbors for a distance of two hundred yards by shouts of murder. A number of men assembled and removed Bratton from the advantage

that Brown had over him. Bratton beat Brown on the head with a stone and begged for a pistol. Nobody had a pistol, and he begged for a knife with which to cut Brown's throat. A knife was not furnished. At this time Bratton was in his night clothes and Brown had his shoes off. Mrs. Bratton was in her night gown.

Bratton went into the house, to make further search for a weapon, leaving Brown in charge of the men outside. Brown remarked to the men that he had been fairly caught in a dreadful predicament, or words to that effect, and voluntarily suggested to the men that they might take him off and hang him or cut his throat. He was allowed to go away and he went.

There was considerable fight over the admission of the above testimony but the Court let it all in with the understanding that if the defence should fail to show its relevancy to the killing it would be stricken out. W. D. G.

Yorkville, Nov. 17.—After remaining out one hour and thirty-six minutes the jury in the case of Paul Bratton and John S. Bratton, charged with the murder of Harry A. Brown, at 3:25 o'clock this afternoon returned a verdict of not guilty. Although the verdict was a popular one and the court house was crowded there was no demonstration except a rush of people to congratulate the defendants.

Mr. John S. Bratton was the only witness put on the stand today. In answer to questions by W. W. Lewis, Esq., he told his story about as follows: "I am 48 years of age and was married in 1887 to Miss Fannie Crockett. Four children have been born to us and two of them, both girls, are living. I loved my wife and children as my life.

"On the night of September 13th, I went to bed in my room in the front part of my house. My little daughter was sleeping in the same room. Between 9 and 10 o'clock my wife came into the room, as I thought, to arrange the covering and mattresses of the bed in which the child was sleeping and went out. She had had some teeth pulled that afternoon and fearing that she was restless, I started to her room to see if there was anything I could do for her. Upon reaching her door I heard a whispered conversation inside. I was horror-struck and went back to my room to get my pistol, for I recognized one of the voices as that of a man. The pistol was usually kept between the mattresses of the large bed in which the child slept. It was not there. I went back to the room and demanded admission. The door was not opened and I went around to a window. H. A. Brown was climbing out. I seized him, and commenced beating him with my fist. My health is not good at any time and on that occasion was especially bad. Brown, being a strong man, got the better of me and tangled me in a swing with the rope around my neck. I called for help as long as I could until I was unable to make a sound. Presently neighbors came in answer to my cries and I resumed pounding him with my fist. I also got a small stone and beat him with that. I asked for a weapon, a pistol, with which to shoot him or a knife with which to cut his throat, but as they did not give me a weapon I went into the house to put on my clothes.

"Mrs. Bratton was present during the struggle. She was clad only in a loose wrapper. I said: My God, Fannie, have I got such a wife as this? She did not answer. I felt that it was my duty to kill her but had no weapon with which to do it and I

offered her no violence. She denied her guilt at first but during the next afternoon confessed that Brown had come to the window and she had allowed him to enter the room, after which they put out the light. Mrs. Bratton claimed that her intimacy with Brown was due to threats made by Brown against her life, but she had never intimidated anything of the kind before that night.

"I determined then and there that I would kill Brown whenever I should find him. I sent for my brother, Paul, to go to Rock Hill with me after Brown. Paul tried to persuade me not to go but I told him that I would go whether he went or not. I was not certain that we would find Brown for I was aware that my wife had written him to escape or he would be killed. It took me some time after reaching Rock Hill to find the place. I knocked at the door. Mr. Neal came down. I asked for Brown, saying that I wanted him to do some painting and must see him at once. Mr. Neal went back and forth twice before I concluded that Brown was not coming out. Third time I followed Mr. Neal to Brown's room. I could see him clearly and that there was no one else in bed with him. I saw no other bed in the room. I fired at him twice and left the room.

"Outside I told the negro, Will Caldwell: 'I have shot Brown. Don't you tell.' We then came back to Yorkville. I surrendered to the sheriff voluntarily as soon as I heard of the verdict at the inquest. I did not go to bed after the incident of Thursday night until Sunday night."

Mr. Bratton answered every question with deliberate precision, impressing all who heard with the truth of his statement. He showed some emotion, at times shedding tears, but all of the story was in a straightforward, matter-of-fact manner. The solicitor did not even examine him and the defence announced that it had nothing further.

It had been agreed that unless the defence showed the relevancy to the developments previous to the killing all testimony relating thereto would be stricken out. The solicitor claimed that this relevancy had not been shown and quoted authorities but the court over-ruled him.

Mrs. Fannie Bratton was not present, just why has not been shown. Mrs. B. A. Brown was present and the solicitor deliberated at length as to whether he would put her on the stand in reply but decided not to do so and announced that he had nothing further.

Judge I. D. Witherapoon and W. B. Wilson, Esq., spoke for the defence and Solicitor Henry answered in an able argument for the prosecution. From Judge Klugh's charge it appeared that the law was strongly against the defendants but acquittal could be almost felt and breathed in the very atmosphere of the court room and the verdict was received as a matter of course."

Yorkville Graded School Building Burned.

Special to The State.

Yorkville, Nov. 16.—Our graded school building caught on fire this morning about 11 o'clock, caused by a burning chimney. It is a total wreck. All the children got out safely, but a number of them lost their books and wraps. The furniture was all lost by fire and breakage. This building was formerly the old female college. It was sold some years ago for \$6,000, but cost much more than that. The insurance on it was \$2,000. G. T. S.

Overlooked Laws.

H. L. Scaife, Esq. of Union, has prepared for Progress an article on "Laws Sometimes Overlooked." Among the statutes which he summarizes are several which, if enforced, would greatly benefit the country. The following prohibitory statutes, which he mentions are not often invoked:

"Any person selling a minor, under the age of eighteen years, cigarette paper, or any substitute therefor, is subject to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars."

"It is unlawful for any person to carry any torch, chunk or coal of fire upon the lands of another without permission; it is also unlawful to set fire to any grass, field, brush or other combustible matter, whereby any wood, fields or fences of another are burned."

"In a limited mercantile partnership in addition to the sign containing the name and style of the firm, the law requires that there shall be posted in its place of business the given and surname of each member of the firm. The penalty is fifty dollars for each month default is made. Any person who shall add to his name on a plate or signboard the word 'company,' or 'Co,' when there are no other persons in the business besides himself, is subject to the same penalty."

"Selling merchandise or resorting to sports or engaging in games on the Sabbath day is prohibited."

A Colored Man Has His Hand Torn Off in a Gin and Dies.

Comparatively few victims of the gin have been reported during this cotton season. One occurred about 15 miles from the city last Wednesday, whereby a colored man named Frank Davis lost his life.

He worked at Corley's gin and through carelessness got his left hand caught in the saws. His arm up to the elbow was ground into a pulp. Physicians were sent for to Columbia, but it was four hours after the accident that they arrived on the scene. The arm had to be amputated as giving the man the only chance for life. But he had lost so much blood that he died the next morning. Had he been brought to Columbia at once and received proper medical attention his life might have been saved.—The State.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

Science tells us that the body of every human being weighing 150 lbs contains a pound of salt. Also that every one of us needs in a year about 15 pounds of salt.

MORE MULES

- COMING. -

Yes, and Horses, too. Having well high sold out the two car loads of stock we received the other day, our Mr. Crawford is now on the Western markets buying more Mules and Horses for our rapidly increasing trade. The car loads of new stock being purchased by Mr. Crawford are expected to arrive here Saturday of this week, so don't fail to call and see them. You'll find in this lot some rare beauties in both mule and horse-flesh.

And while you are looking at our fine stock, you can also take a peep at our handsome display of vehicles—Buggies and Wagons.

ELLIOTT & CRAWFORD

Nov 13, 1900.

Worst Bank Break Yet

A Cashier Who Lived High With Wine, Women and Cards, Beats a Bank out of Double Its Capital Stock.

Cincinnati, O. Nov. 18.—United States Bank Examiner Tucker today took possession of the German National Bank, at Newport, Ky., and posted a notice that the bank would remain closed, pending an examination. Examiner Tucker also announced unofficially that Frank M. Brown, the individual book-keeper and assistant cashier, was missing, and that a partial investigation showed that Brown was short \$201,000. Brown had been with the bank 18 years, was one of the most trusted men ever connected with this old bank, and it is stated by the experts that his operations extended back as far as ten years. The capital stock of the bank is only \$100,000. Brown's alleged shortage is double that amount, and more than the reserve and all assets, including their real estate. While Alvord got away with \$700,000 in New York, he did it in a large bank, but Brown did not have so much to go on and seems to have gone the full limit for a small bank in a city of less than 30,000 inhabitants. The First National Bank of Newport was wrecked two years ago by Cashier Youtsey, and now with the German National Bank closed Newport has only one bank left.

Brown was living a fast life with wine, women and gambling. His career was not cut short by any discovery at the bank until a jealous woman gave him away. Brown is a widower, with one son 10 years old who lives with Brown's father, Paris C. Brown, ex-mayor of Newport and one of the leading citizens.

Brown wrote to a woman in Cincinnati that he was bound for South America, but The Enquirer will say to-morrow that it has good authority for alleging that Brown sailed from New York yesterday and his destination is China.

LERK'S SALE.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, LANCASTER COUNTY.

In the Common Pleas

Etiza J. Wylie and R. E. Wylie, Executrix and Executor, respectively, etc., Plaintiffs,

against

Wm. C. Mobley, Berry B. Mobley, and others, Defendants.

BY virtue of decretal orders in the above case I will sell at Lancaster court house within the legal hours of sale on the First Monday in December, next, all that piece, parcel or tract of land in Pleasant Hill township, county of Lancaster and State of South Carolina, containing

108 Acres, More or Less, and bounded as follows: On the North by lands of Berry Mobley and tract No. 6 of the estate lands of Jesse B. Mobley, deceased; East by lands of Berry Mobley and Sallie L. Mobley; South by lands of Sallie L. Mobley and tract No. 8 of the estate lands of Jesse B. Mobley, deceased; and on the West by lands of Alice M. Horton and perhaps others. The above described land was purchased by Mattie A. Mobley at a sale of the estate lands of Jesse B. Mobley, deceased, and is marked in the general plat of said estate lands as tract No. 7.

The above described land will be sold in two parts or parcels, parts of which will be exhibited on day of sale.

Terms of sale cash. Purchaser to pay for papers, stamps, etc.

W. S. L. PORTER
G. C. P. L. C.

W. E. Wylie, Plaintiffs' Atty.

WANTED—ACTIVE MAN of good Character to deliver and collect in South Carolina for old established manufacturing wholesale house. \$900 a year, sure pay. Honesty more than experience required. Our reference, any bank in any city. Enclose self addressed stamped envelope. Manufacturers, Third Floor, 334 Dearborn St., Chicago.

T. W. SECREST, SURVEYOR,
OSCEOLA, S. C.

Is fully equipped, and qualified, and solicits your surveying.

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